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A TRUE RELATION

Of the perſecution of Samuel Cliſt, *by* Samuel Hierne *Prieſt of* Minchin-hampton, *and* Iohn Stevens, *one who is ſet to do juſtice.*

I Was moved to goe to the Steeple-houſe to *Hampton*, upon the firſt day of the week, and there I ſtood peaceablie amongſt the people, for the ſpace of an hour, or thereabouts, in which time *Samuel Heirne* was praying and preaching, as he ſo called it: and he ſeeing me, he ſeemed to be in great rage; and after he had entred into that called his prayer, he commanded the Officers to take me away, or elſe he could goe no further, as he ſaid, or words to this purpoſe; ſo according to his deſire the Conſtable did; thronged me out of the houſe, and abuſed me in words and actions, and put me in the Stocks, although I ſtood peaceablie, and did not diſturbe him in word nor action, although I was thronged and abuſed as I ſtood amongſt them; and after a while they let me out of the Stocks, and told me, I might goe about my buſineſs; but before I came out of the Town the Conſtable came and took me again, and kept me priſoner in an Inne, and

A deſired

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desired me to promise him not to trouble him for keeping of me in the Stocks, he being condemned in himself, that he had done me wrong, for putting me in without breach of any Law, or without any Warrant or command of any Magistrate, but onely through the Priests words, and so it did appear that he kept me prisoner in the house, to see whether I would promise him not to trouble him; but I being not willing to satisfie his will for to promise him, although I did not intend to do it: but at length he did let me goe, and about a month or five weekes after I was taken by a Warrant of *John Stevens*, and brought before him, and when I came before him, he asked me, whether I was at *Hampton* at Church, as he called it, at such a time or no? To which I answered and told him, I was at the house at the time; he asked me, whether *Samuel Hierne* did pray or preach while I was there, and I told him that he might call it praying or preaching: And he asked me, whether I kept on my hat while I was there? and I told him, I did buy my hat to wear it: Then he seemed to be in a great rage, and struck me two or three blows, although he being one set to keep the peace, he broke it himself, and commanded his man to make a Mittimus to send me to prison, without I would give Bail for my good behaviour for disturbing of *Sam. Hierne*; and he falsly affirmed, that I confest it, and said, that I should go to prison, without I would give Bail; and I told him, that I should give no Bail, for I knew no Law that I had broken; and so he caused his man to make the Mittimus for to send me to prison; but yet I was preserved

preſerved from priſon, but brought into the Quarter Seſſions, and there *Sam: Hierne* prefered a Bill of Inditement againſt me, and indited me for diſturbing of him in words and actions, and brought in his hearers to ſwear to the Bill, that I did wilfully and maliciouſly diſturb him in words and actions, yet they themſelves do confeſs, that I ſtood peacable, and did neither act nor ſpeak. 20098

Here is alſo a Copy of the Bill of Inditement, which the Prieſt prefered againſt me, and he and ſeveral of his hearers ſwore to it as followeth.

THe *Jurors for* Oliver *Lord Protector of the Common-wealth of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging, upon their Oaths do preſent, That* Sam. Clift *late of* Avening *in the County aforeſaid, Clothier, the four and twentieth day of* May, *in the year of our Lord,* 1657. *at* Minchin-hampton *in the County aforeſaid, voluntarily and malitiouſly did by word, deed and overture moleſt and interupt* Samuel Hierne *Clerke, Preacher of Gods Word at* Minchin-hampton *aforeſaid in the ſaid County, in time of divine Service, and open prayer and preaching by the ſaid* Sam. Hierne *in the Church aforeſaid, then and there ſettled; and he the ſaid* Sam. Hierne *being licenced to preach, and in the peace of God being, in contempt of the peace of God, and publick peace and diſturbance of the Congregation in the Church aforeſaid, then and there aſſembled, to the great diſhonour of the Almighty God, and contrary to the form of the Statutes and Laws in that caſe made and provided, &c, and to* Gloceſt. ſhire.

the

the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the publick peace.

Samuel Hierne.	Will. Nicolas.
Francis Maning.	Tho. Newman.
Charles Deane.	Rich. Butt.
George Renols.	

These are they which swore to this Bill of Inditement falsly, for there are several of themselves do confess that I did neither act nor speak, but stood peaceable.

This Bill being presented to the grand Iury so called, did upon their oaths find me guilty, and so brought to a Tryal, and being examined by the petty *I*ury, did upon their oaths bring me in not guilty, and so freed me; so all whose eyes be open may see the unjust proceeding against the innocent, and their confusion in their proceedings, the one swearing *I* was guilty, and the other swearing that *I* was not. So like Priest like people, for the Priest he falsly presents me, his hearers falsly sweareth against me, the *I*ury being of the same generation, some of them swear one way, and some another; so all whose eyes be open, consider what ye have been doing, and repent, and turn to the Lord while ye have time, and put not the day of your visitation afarre off: These unjust proceedings was done above a year ago, but now it lay much upon me to put it in print, and *I* to be clear of all mens bloud am willing to do it, known by the name of

Samuel Clift.

THE END.